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Weekly Letter – 9 June 2024

2 Corinthians 4:13 -5:1

‘We do not lose heart.’

Paul draws on his knowledge of scripture and his experience of God revealed in Jesus when he writes his letters. We can see that in the snippet of 2 Corinthians which will be read in lots of churches next Sunday, including Christ Well.

Paul quotes from Psalm 116:10, even though not every translation looks like, ‘I believed, and so I spoke.’ The Psalmist says that God has saved him from death, and Paul has shared how he has been crushed, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down: afflicted in every way but not despairing, forsaken or destroyed. His experience resonated with that of the Psalmist, but he also had the experience of meeting the risen Jesus in a blinding light. That experience assures him that he will live in God’s presence like Jesus.

Paul said earlier in the letter that he doesn’t lose heart because it’s by God’s mercy he does what he does (4:1). He said we are like clay jars containing the treasure of the life God gives. Now he says that he doesn’t lose heart because he isn’t just looking at outward appearances, but considering the things that can’t be seen, that have an eternal quality. Paul was a tentmaker, and he knew that tents were useful, flexible, and mobile living spaces. He knew that they also wear out. He compares our bodies now to tents, but our home with God in heaven like a brick-built house that’s made to last.

We could lose heart in our broken world. We could lose heart when we look at declining church numbers. Think of a Bible verse or story or experience of God that helps you to say, ‘We do not lose heart.’

Is there anything from your work or experience of life could you use as an image to explain your hope of life with God for ever?

Simon

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling.
Bible Readings: 1 Sam. 8: 4-20 and 2 Cor. 4:13 -5:1**

**Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Tabernacle, Mumbles
Prayers for every household - we will pray for Brondeg, nos. 1-31, 41-63**

Tuesday – 11th June - Tea and Chat - 2-4pm – Candle making

Love and best wishes to Anne Rees who is now out of hospital, and recovering slowly at home. God Bless.

Christian Aid

Thank you to all who supported Christian Aid Week in May. The amount raised was £1,330. Wynford

Thursday Club

We have recently had new children join us in Club and our numbers have gone up. We have had lots of fun. Here is a picture of the children's lego creations.

This term we will be learning about Joseph.



Dates for your Diary

Big Green Week – 13th – 18th June <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

There are events in Swansea to mark Big Green Week this year. The Environment Centre are holding the 'Pier Street Party' on 8th June from 10am – 2pm with music, information and refreshments

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pier-street-party-great-big-green-week-and-bike-week-no-need-to-book-tickets-902383853397>

There are also two ecumenical services: 12th June at 7pm at St James, Uplands, where Simon will be taking part, and 14th June at 7pm at Aenon Baptist Church, Morriston.

Tuesday, 18th June – Church Meeting – 7pm in Lounge

We gather in Church Meeting to talk about the life of Christ Well and to seek the mind of Christ, with the Spirit to guide us. Anyone may speak, but more significantly we believe that God may speak through anyone. Please tell one of the Elders if there is something that you would like discussed.

Tuesday, 18th June - 18.45 pm - Sing for Sanctuary – Choir Concert & Fundraiser

Raising Funds for Swansea City of Sanctuary, St Mary's Church, St Mary's Square, Swansea.